

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Increasingly big money and lobby groups corrupt the election process in our country.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, or worse, a political action group, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. McNeil/Lehrer set the standard: not sound bites, but coherent position statements by two opposing parties. Unbiased news must air both sides of a partisan argument.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

With deep concern for our democratic system,  
Dr. Terry May